

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 1716

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, XD, BG

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION TO DEPUTY SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BANGLADESH

FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

1. ALL VERNACULAR AND ENGLISH DAILIES GAVE INTENSIVE

COVERAGE RUSH/ SISCO FIVE HOUR VISIT TO DACCA. TRIP CARRIED FRONT PAGES ALL PAPERS: RECEIVED MOST PROMINENT TREATMENT DESPITE DEVASTATING TORNADO 20 MILES SOUTH OF DACCA. ALL DAILIES, EXCEPTING PRO- MOSCOW BENGALI DAILY SANGBAD AND OPPOSITION DAILY GANOKANTHA, CARRIED THREE TO FIVE COLUMN PICTURES OF DEPSEC RUSH MEETING PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER. T. V. EVENING NEWS SHOWS, WITH FULLEST U. S. COVERAGE SINCE CONNALLY VISIT, CARRIED FILM CLIPS OF ARRIVAL, MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINISTER, FOREIGN MINISTER AND AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE. TEXT ALL STORIES BASED ON ARRIVAL, DEPARTURE STATEMENTS AND DEPSEC REMARKS AT DACCA AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE.

2. ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILIES BANGLADESH OBSERVER AND MORNING NEWS CARRIED FACTUAL, OBJECTIVE SUMMARY DEPSEC REMARKS AT AIRPORT WITHOUT COMMENTARY. ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY THE PEOPLE IN SIMILAR STORY HEADED " RUSH, SISCO'S AIR DASH TO BANGLADESH CAPITAL - U. S. WANTS RECONCILIATION AND ACCOMMODATION IN SUB- CONTINENT" POINTED OUT THAT " DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS IN THE CITY ARE ATTACHING GREAT

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SIGNIFICANCE TO THE " AID DASH" OF THESE TOP U. S. DIPLOMATS AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SUB- CONTINENT. IN THE AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC HIERARCHY, MR. RUSH COMES NEXT ONLY TO DR. HENRY KISSINGER AS A TROUBLE SHOOTER AND MR. SISCO PRESIES OVER THE IMPORTANT NEAR EAST

AND SOUTH ASIAN DESK OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT."

3. ALL BENGALI PAPERS CARRIED SIMILAR FACTUAL ACCOUNTS DEPSEC VISIT BASED ON USIS RELEASED ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE STATEMENTS, THEIR VERSIONS OF AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS.

PURBODESH CARRIED COMPLETE PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS. AZAD CARRIED IN FULL USIS RELEASED RUSH/ SISCO PROFILES.

4. THREE ADDITIONAL BENGALI PAPERS CARRIED EXCLUSIVE DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDNET STORIES: PURBODESH IN AN ARTICLE HEADED " SPECULATION AMONGST DIPLOMATIC OBSERVERS FOLLOW- ING VISIT OF FORMER PENTAGON OFFICIAL TO DACCA" SAID THAT " WHILE NOTHING HAS BEEN REVEALED OFFICIALLY ON THE WIDE RANGE OF SUBJECTS DISCUSSED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER OBSERVERS SPECULATE THAT THE FOLLOWING TOPICS WERE DISCUSSED: 1) AMERICAN GOVERNMENT' S RE- ACTION AND ITS ROLE VIS- A- VIS INDO- BANGLADESH JOIN SBEWWARATION; 2) AMERICAN GOVERNMENT' S VIEWPOINTS OF TRIAL OF WAR CRIMINALS NOW HELD IN INDIA; 3) TO UNDER- STAND BD VIEWS AND OFFER AMERICAN VIEWPOINTS ON THE FORTH- COMING TALKS IN INDIA NEXT FRIDAY AND SATURDAY; 4) AMERICA' S POLICY TOWARD SOUTH ASIA FOLLOWING THE END OF THE VN WAR; 5) U. S. ARMS SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN."

THE OBSERVERS ARE ALSO REPORTED TO BELIEVE THAT " THE TOPIC OF REPAYMENT OF U. S. LOANS TO ERSTWHILE PAKISTAN MAY HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED.

GANOKANTHA (ONLY OPPOSITION BENGALI DAILY - LEFT WING INDEPENDENT) UNDER HEADING " WHAT IS ULTERIOR MOTIVE BEHIND THIS WHIRL- WIND TRIP?" SAYS " IT APPEARS THAT THE WORLDWIDE IMPERIALIST INTEREST WITH THE SUBCONTINENT PARTICULARLY WITH BD HAS BECOME QUITE INENSE." LOCAL POLITICAL CIRCLES BELIEVE THE WHIRLWIND DACCA TRIP OF SEVERAL TOP WASHINGTON OFFICIALS IS AN OMINOUS SIGNAL OF THE FOUL GAME WHICH THE IMPERIALISTS, PARTICULARLY THE U. S. IMPERIALISTS, ARE

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PLAYING WITH THIS NEWBORN NATION."..." THEY WELCOMDE THE

BD- INDIAN JOINT DECLARATION. THEY ALSO MADE IT KNOWN TO THE NEWSMEN THAT THE U. S. WILL WELCOME ANY SOLUTION OF THE DISPUTES BETWEEN THE THREE COUNTRIES OF THE SUBCONTINENT BASED ON MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING. MR. KENNETH RUSH DID NOT FORGET TO MENTION THE FLOW OF U. S. ECONOMIC AID TND STREGTHEN BD ECONOMY. AT THE SAME TIME HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THEY ARE READY TO TIGHTEN THE NOOSE OF PL-480, AN INSTRUMENT TO ENSLAVE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AROUND BD'S NECK".

BANGAR BANI IN AN ARTICLE HEADED " CHANGE IN AMERICAN POLICY TOWARD SASIA LIKELY" SAYS: - " THE FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE OF U. S. AMBASSADORS OF SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES IN TEHRAN NEXT WEEK MIGHT RESULT IN A CHANGE IN AMERICAN POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH ASIA..... FROM THE ITINERARY IT APPEARS THAT THIS BRIEF DACCA VISIT OF MR. RUSH DOES NOT HAVE ANY SPECIAL IMPORTANCE IN REGARD TO BD- U. S. RELATIONS BUT THE IMPORTANCE OF SUCH A VISIT BY MR. RUSH CANNOT BE UNDERESTIMATED IN THE CONTEXT OF THE PRESENT SITUATION IN THE SUB- CONTINENT..... MR. RUSH MIGHT ALSO HAVE DISCUSSED WITH BD LEADERS INITIATIVES AS ENVISAGED IN THE RECENT BD- INDIA JOINT DECLARATION."

5. CHARGE CARRYING NEWS CLIPPINGS TO TEHRAN CONFERENCE.
NEWBERRY

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